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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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USDOE FOR HILL AND DUNNING

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: GAS (08.05): USDEL VISIT: ACCESS TO OFFSHORE

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2525, (B) MOSCOW 2085, (C) MOSCOW 3354, (D) STATE 8505

1. DURING 7 MARCH MEETING AT MINPOWER, SCICOUNS DISCUSSED WITH MAL'TSEV AND MINGAZPROM REP QUESTIONS OF ACCESS TO OFFSHORE DRILLING FACILITIES AND EXCHANGE OF DRAFT PROGRAMS BEFORE SUBJECT VISIT. SOVIETS CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT PURPOSE OF USDEL VISIT IS TO LEARN ABOUT SOVIET ENHANCED GAS RECOVERY OPERATIONS, AND THEREFORE OFFSHORE OPERATIONS ARE A NEW AND SEPARATE SUBJECT WHICH CAN ONLY BE DISCUSSED DURING UPCOMING MEETING, WITH VISIT POSSIBILITY RESERVED FOR A LATER TRIP. SCICOUNS COUNTERED THAT WHILE VISIT IS INTENDED FULLY TO COVER ENHANCED GAS
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RECOVERY, DELEGATION WILL HAVE AS OTHER PRIME OBJECTIVE THE NEGOTIATION OF A PROGRAM OF FUTURE COOPERATION. SCI COUNS NOTED THAT ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE HAS CALLED FOR BROADENING OF COOPERATION IN THE GAS FIELD. SCICOUNS ASKED RESPONSE TO DUNNING REQUEST OF 9 JANUARY (REF D) TO VISIT OFFSHORE OPERATIONS, WHICH WAS NOT REFERRED TO IN ZAYTSEV RESPONSE OF 17 FEBRUARY (REF C). MAL'TSEV STATED

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THAT SOVIET LACK OF RESPONSE TO THAT REQUEST WAS A MISTAKE, AND HE PROMISED AN IMMEDIATE LETTER FROM ZAYTSEV TO DUNNING TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION.

2. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION ON NEED TO BROADEN GAS COOPERATION, MAL'TSEV AND SCICOUNS AGREED THAT SOVIET AND U.S. SIDES SHOULD FORWARD DRAFT PROGRAMS OF FUTURE COOPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT DATE CAN BE FIXED FOR USDEL VISIT. MAL'TSEV SAID THAT SOVIET DRAFT CAN BE PREPARED WITHIN TWO WEEKS, AND HE HOPED THAT U.S. COULD DO THE SAME. MAL'TSEV EXPRESSED HOPE, ALBEIT RATHER WANLY, THAT U.S. WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO VISIT FOR 10-19 APRIL VISIT ALREADY SET UP BY ZAYTSEV (REF C).

3. COMMENT - SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO SCHEDULE VISIT TO OFFSHORE FACILITIES NOW APPEARS TO GO BEYOND THE GENUINE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES THAT SETTING UP A VISIT WOULD ENTAIL (REFS A AND B), THEY HAVE APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT PROVIDING A VISIT TO OFFSHORE OPERATIONS WILL RENDER NO BENEFIT TO THEM. MAL'TSEV'S STATEMENT THAT "WE MUST FULFILL AGREED PLANS INSTEAD OF JUST VISITING MORE NEW AREAS" CERTAINLY HAS MERIT, BUT WE HEAR ECHOES OF THE AUTOMATIC NO-ACCESS CHIME IN HIS STATEMENT. THUS WE URGE THAT DUNNING SEND TO ZAYTSEV IN THE NEAREST FUTURE AN OUTLINE OF CURRENT U.S. THINKING ON POSSIBLE AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COOPERATION. IF ACCESS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET OFFSHORE OPERATIONS IS STILL A CRITICAL POINT, THEN THE LIST OF POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE AREAS MUST, WE FEEL, INCLUDE SOME ASPECT OF OFFSHORE OPERATIONS, AND DUNNING'S LETTER SHOULD SPECIFY THAT LACK OF ACCESS TO A TECHNICAL AREA WOULD OF COURSE LEAD TO ITS BEING EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION AS AN AREA FOR FUTURE COOPERATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. TOON

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